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*Helping People  
Help the Land*

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“Transmitted via e-mail”

April 21, 2006

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 360-6-9

SUBJECT: PER – SAFETY AND HEALTH – BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES

Purpose: To remind employees on proper bio-security measures.

Expiration date: September 30, 2007

The National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC) have issued guidelines for all USDA employees to follow to minimize the risk and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases from livestock to poultry.

With the recent outbreak of TB in cattle and Avian flu in birds, it is imperative these measures be followed not only for the safety of each employee, but to avoid spreading disease agents farm to farm.

### **NRCS Policy**

NRCS employees will adhere to the following bio-security measures at all times or more stringent measures may have to be put in place.

1. If possible, do not visit more than one livestock operation per day.
2. Employees who raise livestock, wild game birds, etc. should consider having a pair of boots that remain at work and are not worn home.
3. Keep vehicle interior floor mats and exteriors free of dirt, mud, and manure.

During periods of heightened concern for infectious animal disease, addition procedures outlined in Level 2 and Level 3 below may be implemented as recommended by APHIS and the State Veterinarian. The state office will notify offices when this occurs.

### **(A) LEVEL 1 – VISITS TO FARMS/RANCHES THAN ENTAILS OFFICE OR HOME VISITS ONLY:**

1. Avoid livestock area, pens, barns, etc. unless it is necessary to complete the goal of a visit.
2. Park vehicles on paved or concrete areas, away from production sites on farms, to avoid contact with dirt, mud and manure.

3. Wash hands with antibacterial soap or disposable wipes before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.

**(B) LEVEL 2 – VISIT TO FARMS/RANCHES WHERE MINIMAL CONTACT WITH LIVESTOCK/POULTRY OR THEIR HOUSING (barns, pens, hutches, etc.) IS UNAVOIDABLE TO ATTAIN THE GOAL OF THE VISIT:**

1. Park vehicles on paved or concrete areas, away from production sites on farms, to avoid contact with dirt, mud, and manure.
2. Put on clean rubber or new disposable boots upon exiting the vehicle.
3. Wash hands with antibacterial soap or disposable wipes before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.
4. After returning to vehicle, clean any equipment used with a brush and properly mixed disinfectant solution.
5. Clean rubber boots with disinfectant solution. Scrub the bottom of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt and debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label at the farm site. Do not put on the ground. If wearing disposable boots, place them in a plastic bag and leave on the premises for the owner/producer to dispose of. If they are unwilling to dispose for us, place in a designated “dirty” area of your vehicle.

**(C) LEVEL 3 – VISIT TO FARMS/RANCHES WHERE THERE WILL BE CLOSE CONTACT WITH LIVESTOCK/POULTRY (walking through narrowly confined pens/lots where animals are within reach or actually handling/inspecting the animals):**

1. Pre-plan the needed supplies and clothing for daily visits including, but not limited to, coveralls; boots (rubber or disposable); large water container; disinfectant; long-handled brush; trash bags, paper towels; spray bottle w/water, antibacterial soap; and bucket/pail.
2. Park vehicle on paved or concrete areas, away from production sites on farms, to avoid contact with dirt, mud and manure.
3. Put on a pair of clean overalls (cloth or disposable) and rubber or disposable boots upon exiting the vehicle.
4. Designate a “dirty” area in your vehicle for clothing and equipment that has been used on the farm.
5. Wash hands with antibacterial soap or disposable wipes before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.
6. After returning to vehicle, clean boots and any equipment used with a brush and disinfectant solution.
7. Clean rubber boots with disinfectant solution. Scrub the bottom of the boot with a brush to remove all dirt and debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. If wearing disposable boots, place them in a plastic bag and leave on the premises for the producer to dispose of or place them in a designated “dirty area of your vehicle”.
8. Remove coveralls so that they are inside out and place in a garbage bag.
9. If the vehicle was not parked on a paved surface, wash vehicle tires and wheel wells to remove dirt and debris at nearby pressure car wash.
10. At the end of the day, dispose of all plastic bags that contain dirty supplies in a manner that prevents exposure to other livestock. Launder coveralls, if applicable.

## **SUPPLIES**

Each office is responsible to purchase and maintain an adequate supply of the following items. Prior to purchasing any items locally, contact your area administrative coordinator.

1. Coveralls – Disposable coveralls are available from the area office.
2. Boots – Personnel working around livestock or livestock production facilities are authorized to purchase rubber or disposable boots. An amount NTE \$35.00/year may be claimed on an SF-1164. The Area Conservationist will determine who qualifies for reimbursement. Area Offices should maintain a supply of disposable boots for occasional use by visitors or employees.
3. Latex Gloves or Suitable Substitute – Boise catalog.
4. Large Water Container – GSA catalog.
5. Disinfectant – Nolvasan – purchase locally (i.e. Fleet Farm). Area offices may need to purchase the disinfectant for field offices. Follow manufacturer's instructions for use, storage and proper handling.
6. Long Handled Brush – Purchase locally (i.e. Fleet Farm).
7. Trash Bags – Boise catalog.
8. Paper Towels – Boise catalog.
9. Antibacterial Soap – Liquid or Gel or Antibacterial Wipes – Purchase from Boise catalog.
10. Bucket/Pail – Obtain from GSA Catalog.

Contact Tammy Egerstrom or Cutrina Moreland, State Safety and Health Officers, if you have any questions or concerns.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

DIST: AE